

Docket No.: 02-18 US

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An analytical test device comprising:

~~a casing, including a chamber defining a pocket sized and shaped to capture and contain a predetermined volume of a fluid sample, said pocket extending outwardly from said casing;~~

~~a sample metering meansmeter~~ for controlling a release rate of fluid sample from the pocket, said sample metering meansmeter comprising a sample pad and a feed element having a generally planar surface pressed against said sample pad and at least one feed inlet through the planar surface for providing fluid communication between said sample pad and said pocket, said fluid element being disposed with sufficient pressure between the generally planar surface and the sample pad in order to control a rate of fluid sample release; ~~from said pocket;~~ and

~~a chamber defining a pocket extending outwardly from said casing and sized and shaped to capture and contain a preselected volume of the fluid sample, said volume providing sufficient hydrostatic pressure to displace air and fill the inlets with fluid sample; and~~

a testing assembly, disposed in the casing, for assaying the released fluid sample from the pocket.

Claims 2-20 cancelled.

21. (Currently Amended) The test device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one feed inlet comprises a plurality of spaced apart feed inlets in said generally planar surface in order to provide controlled release of fluid in said pocket via hydrostatic pressure to the feed element.

22. (Currently Amended) The test device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one feed inlet comprises a slot in said generally planar surface in order to provide controlled release of fluid in said pocket via hydrostatic pressure to the feed element.

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23. (Currently Amended) The test device according to claim 1 further comprising ~~means~~a rail for supporting said casing on a generally horizontal surface with the pocket disposed in a spaced apart relationship with said generally horizontal surface.

24. (Currently Amended) The test device according to claim 1 wherein said testing assembly comprises a plurality of spaced apart test strips each communicating with said sample ~~metering means~~meter.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~text~~test device according to claim 1 further comprising a grip means positioned on said casing for facilitating dipping the device into a fluid container in order to fill said pocket with fluid sample.